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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5731**  
Akihisa HONGO et al. : Docket No. 2001\_0133A  
Serial No. 09/762,582 : Group Art Unit 1753  
Filed April 12, 2001 : Examiner Brian Mutschler

SUBSTRATE PLATING  
METHOD AND APPARATUS

**RESPONSE UNDER 37. CFR 1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**EXAMINING GROUP 1700-**

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action of December 30, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. Patent application as follows: